

# The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation  
Volume 35 Number 4 July-August 2013*

## The Curious Case of Disappearing Islands

*by Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator*

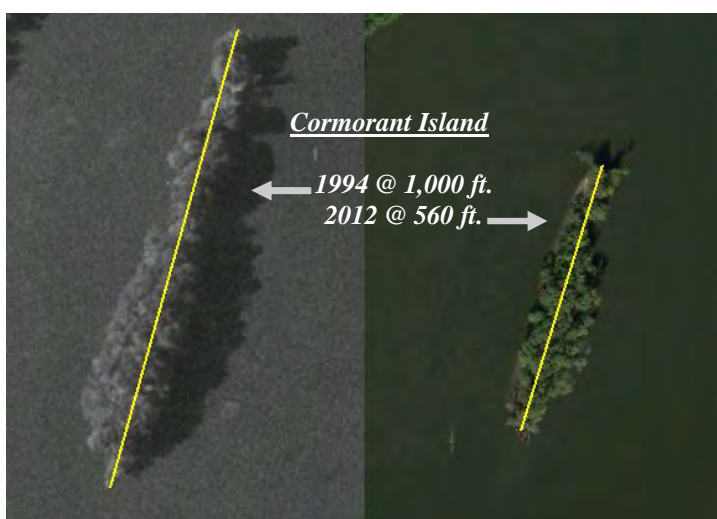
Recently, I was researching history of Rock Creek Marina & Campground using *Google Earth*, looking at older aerial photos of the park. In the course of that research, I noticed that some of the nearby islands on the Mississippi River were changing shape over time. *Google Earth* has a tool that allows you to look at aerial photos of Pool 14 as far back as 1994 and has another tool to measure items in those photos. I also used U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation maps from 1974 to measure the islands from that time. All photos are viewed from a simulated altitude of 3,175 feet and island's are locally named. Here is what I found.

**Cormorant Island**, a long narrow island located directly east of Rock Creek, next to the much larger, Adams Island. This island is a staple stop on our Blue Heron Eco Cruise, to view double-crested cormorants that often roost there.

1974 = 1,637 ft. in length

1994 = 1,000 ft.

2012 = 560 ft.



**Steamboat Slough, Fun Island**, a small island that often hosts recreational boaters as a spot to stop & swim. Ten years ago it had a rope swing tied to a tree limb. That tree, along with many others, has washed out.

1974 = 364 ft. in length

1994 = 262 ft.

2012 = 67 ft.

*more photos on the web version at [www.clintoncounty-ia.gov](http://www.clintoncounty-ia.gov)*

**One-tent Island**, a tiny island directly in line with power lines south of the Nuclear Power Plant. It served as a popular camping spot, just big enough for one tent and a few shade trees around 2002. It shrank until it totally disappeared in the winter of 2006-07.

1974 = 182 ft. in length

1994 = 129 ft.

2012 = 0 ft.



**Turtle Island**, a long, narrow island at the top of Hansen's Slough between Rock Creek and Camanche. It is adjacent to what we call *Mussel Beach*. It has a transmission power line tower across the north point and has lots of heavy rock to slow erosion.

1974 = 1,091 ft. in length

1994 = 1,014 ft.

2012 = 990 ft.

From a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publication dated June 21, 2012 informing about the restoration and importance of islands in Pool 8, near Stoddard, Wisconsin. *The Upper Mississippi River in Minnesota and Wisconsin was once sprinkled with islands, eventually lost due to erosion, wave action (barges, boats, wind), ice damage and currents (floods). The islands are now being recreated as wildlife habitat.*

*The islands are intended to restore habitat for migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals. They help calm the winds that race across the river and also provide hiding places for fish and other small wildlife.*

*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Minnesota and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have been working since 1988 to restore fish and wildlife habitat in lower Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River. They are now focusing on Pool 9.*

No matter the cause or whose fault, islands in our area are being consumed at an alarming rate. I can't help but think protecting islands with upstream rip-rap, such as Turtle Island, before they erode, is far superior to restoration.

More Island Photos  
Available on web and  
email version only.

Turtle Island

← 1994 @ 1,014 ft.

2012 @ 990 ft. →

*The sandbar on south  
edge is growing but low  
water makes it seem  
larger than normal.*



Google earth

Imagery Date: 9/27/2012 41°41'09.45" N 90°12'42.64" W elev 580 ft eye alt 52350 ft

Steamboat Slough,  
Fun Island

1994 @ 262 ft. →

2012 @ 67 ft. →



# Hydraulic Fracturing & Iowa

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

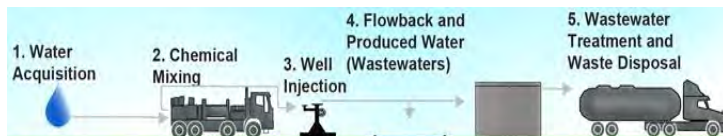
Natural gas is found throughout the world in underground sedimentary rock formations. Mining the gas involves drilling wells. Various techniques, such as hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a. fracking), are then used to create a connection providing a pathway for the gas to be extracted. Once the appropriate land leases are acquired, environmental and regulatory reviews should be conducted to assess related environmental impacts and local social issues addressed.

A well pad is constructed and the hole is drilled. After the drilling assembly is removed, a steel casing is inserted through the entire length of the well. The casing is perforated to provide a way for natural gas to enter the production casing. Water, fine sand and chemicals are then injected through the perforations. The fluid penetrates the shale and creates cracks, or fractures, in the rock. Sand particles, called proppant, are carried by the fluid and deposited in the fractures creating a pathway for gas to reach the well. This step is called hydraulic fracturing. Finally the gas and fluids flow into the well and up. The gas is separated from the fracturing fluid. This “flowback” fluid contains the original fracking chemicals, plus heavy metals and radioactive material that were buried in the shale.

In 2005, President Bush exempted oil and gas companies from federal regulations designed to protect our drinking water. Currently, there are no regulations in place that require oil and gas companies to report the volumes or names of chemicals used in extraction; benzene, chloride, toluene and sulfates are among them. Allowing fracking without oversight gives our country's gas industries an exclusive right to inject toxic fluids directly into their wells and potentially into groundwater. The flowback treatment may also be overburdening our wastewater systems which may not even be able to manage certain elements involved. According to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, 90 percent of all oil and gas wells in the U.S. are “fracked” to boost production.

The process has come under attack as dangerous to both human health and the environment. The most common problem involves the disposal of the toxic sludge. Texas-based XTO Energy, for instance, received 31 fracking-related pollution violations at 20 wells in Pennsylvania in 2010 alone. But even more troubling is the fact that between 20 and 40 percent of the chemicals remain stranded underground where they may contaminate drinking water. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), at least nine different chemicals commonly used in fracking are injected into oil and gas wells at concentrations that pose a threat to human beings.

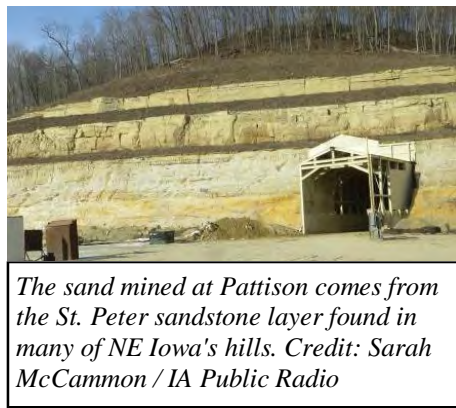
In response to public concern the EPA recently commenced a comprehensive study on the topic. The studies conclusions are not expected until late 2014. In the meantime,



many local and state governments have voted to outlaw fracking and enacted moratoriums on fracking, citing concerns about whether the technique is safe enough to be allowed to continue. Others are waiting to see what the EPA finds before making their own decisions.

In Iowa, though little drilling is done, fracking is taking a toll here. The specialized sand used in hydraulic fracturing is being mined, as sandstone, from some of our most scenic lands. It expanded here from Wisconsin and Minnesota, where scores of mines are extracting the sand. Sand mining operations in N.E. Iowa are removing and defacing its scenic hills and bluffs. The process also creates noise, silica dust and heavy traffic. Neither federal nor state rules provide any protection against fine, airborne crystalline silica, a known cause of silicosis, a serious respiratory disease. People also worry that site erosion and sand processing will pollute local streams and groundwater. In Minnesota, six silica sand mines are up and running but moratoriums have been enacted by five counties and five cities. Wisconsin is the nation's leading frac sand state, where more than 80 mines and processing facilities are either operating or under construction. An additional 20 are in the proposal stage. As many as two dozen temporary suspensions on new mines have been enacted by local governments there.

The Pattison Sand Company operates Iowa's only active frac sand mine near the town of Clayton along the Mississippi River. But another company has applied for a permit to mine silica sand on an 11-acre site near the Upper Iowa River,



about 5 miles southwest of New Albin. A spokesman for Minnesota Sands, said he had been “looking at numerous sites in Allamakee County, doing borings all over the area.” Allamakee County residents asked the county supervisors to place a moratorium to buy time to formulate rules to protect the environment as well as public welfare. They expressed their concerns at an October, 2012 meeting attended by 150 people in New Albin.

No frac sand will be mined in Allamakee County for at least 18 months following the action of that county's supervisors. By unanimous vote, the supervisors approved a suspension to allow time for the Planning and Zoning Commission to study the potential ill effects of frac sand mining and to make corresponding amendments to the county's zoning ordinance. No one spoke against the moratorium.

# Gone Fishing!

by Mary Broadfoot, Interpretive Naturalist Intern

Ever since I can remember I have loved to fish. Whenever my parents went on a camping trip, my brother and I were sure to bring our poles and tackle boxes so we could find a place to drop a line.

In recent years though, life has gotten hectic and it seems like I haven't had time for this past-time from my childhood...so this year I decided that I was going to take advantage of Iowa's *Free Fishing Days*! My boyfriend Nick and I packed up our gear and headed off to Lost Grove Lake in Eldridge, IA. We only caught three fish (two crappies and a bluegill), but it brought back good memories and we had great time.



Every year the Iowa DNR holds these *Free Fishing Days* where Iowa residents can fish and possess fish without having to buy a DNR fishing license. This event is held the first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of June.

Normally, Iowa residents (ages 16 and older) pay \$19 for an annual license. More information about licenses and prices can be found on the Iowa DNR website ([www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)).

In honor of *Free Fishing Days* and my renewed angling interest, I thought I'd put together a list of good fishing spots in our area, what you could catch there and other amenities that may be appealing.

## **Places In Clinton County:**

### ***Malone Park & Killdeer Recreation Area***

**Location:** 5 miles east of DeWitt on US 30

**What to Catch:** Largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish

**Amenities:** Malone - swimming, disc golf, picnic shelter, pit toilets; Killdeer - fishing jetty, boat ramp, pit toilet

### ***Rock Creek Marina & Campground***

**Location:** Between Camanche and Folletts; Backwater & Mississippi River Access (Pool 14)

**What to Catch:** Wide variety including large & smallmouth bass, channel & flathead catfish, northern pike, walleye, sauger, bluegill, crappie

**Amenities:** New Eco Tourism Center with camp store, camping, cabins, rental canoes/kayaks, playgrounds, hiking

***Other Areas with Fishing:*** Ben Martinsen, Barber Creek, Syracuse, Eden Valley, Sherman Park and Walnut Grove.

## **One of My Personal Favorites:**

### ***Yellow River State Forest***

**Location:** NE Iowa, Allamakee County

**What to Catch:** Mostly trout, some bass, bluegill, sunfish

**Amenities:** Camping, hiking & horseback trails, hunting, playgrounds.

This list is not exhaustive, by any means, but hopefully it gives you some ideas of where you would like to plan your next fishing trip and maybe you can take advantage of Iowa DNR's *Free Fishing Days* next year too!



*A stringer full of trout at Yellow River State Forest, from my childhood.*

## Meet Intern, Mary Broadfoot

Hello Everyone! My name is Mary Broadfoot and I am the Clinton County Conservation's Interpretive Naturalist Intern for this summer.

I am originally from Charlotte, IA near Petersville Church and went to school in DeWitt. I am now going to college at Iowa State University in Ames, IA where I am entering my Senior year as an Animal Ecology major in the Natural Resources, Ecology, & Management Department. My focus area is wildlife care and pre-veterinary medicine and after graduation next spring I hope to either go to graduate school for wildlife ecology or find a job in that field of work, depending on what opportunities present themselves.



I have been here at the Clinton County Conservation for about six weeks now and I have been VERY busy helping out and learning from the other naturalists and I will continue on in this position until the end of July. I have led groups of children of various ages in programs such as reptiles and amphibians, pond study, canoe/kayak paddling, nature hikes and tours of the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek.

I am also in the process of learning how to drive and navigate the Blue Heron pontoon boat so that I can give Eco Cruises by myself before the end of the summer. There is a lot to learn but I am having a great time!



*Driving the Blue Heron with a Whittier Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader.*

# Family Fun in the Outdoors!

## July

**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Minnow Races ~ 7:30**

**PM ~ Eden Valley ~** Meet near the playground to catch a minnow for some fun, competition afterwards. Don't worry, if you don't catch one, we will supply you with a racer.



**minnows**

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~**

Every Saturday morning through Labor Day, we will be offering naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat on the Mississippi River.

Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Bicycle Parade ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek ~** Decorate your bike, stroller or wagons and meet at the camp store for a parade thru our campground.

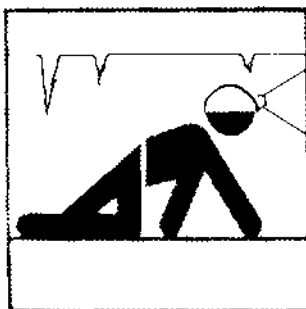
**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ Eden Valley ~** The Nature Center will be open from 1-4 PM on Saturdays, now through October. The center features a new gift shop and a new air conditioning system to keep our guests and animals comfortable. As always, we are looking for volunteers to open the Nature Center on Saturdays.

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Minnow Races ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Meet under the deck of the Eco Center to possibly catch and race your own minnow.

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Fish Boil ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Let us heat up our kitchen while you relax and enjoy your weekend. We will serve you a generous portion of fish, vegetables and all the fixings. Adults \$9.95, Children \$6.95.

**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Exploring Caves ~ 1 PM ~ DeWitt Community**

**Center ~** This will be a Power-Point presentation loaded with pictures of people exploring Iowa's 10th longest cave. The best part is that it is the same cave many of the attendees have or will explore when they are in 5th grade! We will also bring some live animals and artifacts of things we encounter regularly.



**11<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Every Thursday evening through October, we will be offering naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat on the Mississippi River. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

**12<sup>th</sup> ~ Seed Mosaics ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~** Come make a piece of art out of nature! There will be outlines of different Iowa animals available, or draw your own picture, then color it in using seeds to make a one-of-a-kind design. We will supply different types of beans, seeds, and natural objects, you just bring your imagination!

## Rock Creek Campground Theme Weekends

### July

4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

4th of July Weekend

12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

Family Picnic Weekend

19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

Wet & Wild Weekend

26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

Christmas in July Weekend

### August

2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

Bumps in the Night Weekend

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

Back to School Blues

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

Catfish Classic Tournament

30<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Labor Day Weekend

### September

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Grandparents Day Weekend

13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

Fall Festival Weekend

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

Tailgate Weekend

### October

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

Halloween at Rock Creek

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Lunch Cookout ~ Noon-2 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**Camp Café ~** We will be grilling out. Come into the Camp Café and let us cook lunch for you.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Seed Mosaics ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Come make a piece of art out of nature! There will be outlines of different Iowa animals available, or draw your own picture, then color it in using seeds to make a one-of-a-kind design. We will supply different types of beans, seeds, and natural objects, you just bring your imagination!

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Campground Potluck ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek ~**

Let's have a picnic! We ask that everyone brings a family size dish to share and your own table service and meet under the Eco Tourism Center for a campground picnic. Drinks can be purchased in the camp store.

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory ~ Wapsi Center ~** Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory for a tour of the night sky. Please call 563-333-6141 on the day of this event to find out if weather conditions will permit viewing.

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 7 PM**

**~ Wapsi Center ~** Join us to learn about the latest news and happenings at the Wapsi River EE Center.

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**18<sup>th</sup> ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~**

Come enjoy an evening of home-spun music beneath the waxing moon aboard the Blue Heron Eco Cruise pontoon. The cruise is popular and free of charge so make your reservation early by calling 563-259-1876.





**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Paddling ~ 4-8 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Our canoes and kayaks will be available free of charge to get you out on the water. Stop in the camp store and check out a canoe to enjoy a *Wet & Wild* time on the river.

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Old Fashioned Sprinkler Fun ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Come beat the summer heat and with our *Wet and Wild Weekend* with a water sprinkler and some old fashioned fun.



**19<sup>th</sup> ~ Dark Skies Float ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ We'll launch at 8:30, so come a few minutes early to register and choose your craft. Bring your own flashlight and bug spray and while supplies last we'll equip you with a boat, paddles, PFD's, whistle and a boat-light then lead you out into the dark of the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge. This is fun for all and a unique opportunity to explore nature by night. Our equipment is limited and lent on a first-come, first-served basis.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Clinton County Area EnviroKids ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency, Clinton** ~ Grades 3-5 (younger children if accompanied by an adult). Explore the world with us on Saturdays this summer! Find out what happens to all the trash that you throw away as we tour the Solid Waste Agency. Learn about the life cycle of a landfill and how recycling does not end at the curb. One-time \$5 entry fee for EnviroKids. Sign-up with Judie Petersen 563-357-6932.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Cardboard Boat Regatta ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek** ~ It's time to build your own cardboard boat and see if you can stay dry. We will set up a short course for you to compete against your family and friends. Complete rules are available at the camp store.



**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Come enjoy an afternoon of home-spun music at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. Area musicians and vocalists are invited to bring their instruments and talents to blend as others gather to listen, sing along and sometimes dance. It is truly enjoyable for all.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Fish Boil ~ 4-7 pm ~ Rock Creek** ~ Let us heat up our kitchen while you relax and enjoy your weekend. We will serve you a generous portion of fish, vegetables and all the fixings. Adults \$9.95, Children \$6.95.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley** ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

**20<sup>th</sup> ~ Black Light For Bugs ~ Dusk ~ Wapsi Center** ~ Some of Iowa's most interesting critters only come out at night! Join Casey for a night adventure to catch and learn some of Iowa's fascinating nocturnal insects. Please meet and discuss in the parking lot around dusk. Register by calling 563-328-3286 and remember to bring bug spray to keep pestering bugs away so you can enjoy the interesting ones!

**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center** ~ No dues ever! New Member's and guests are always welcome!

**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Beneath the Surface ~ 1 PM ~ DeWitt Community Center** ~ There will be a show and share of live animals and animal artifacts to see what creeps and crawls just beneath the surface.



**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Decorate Sites for Christmas ~ Rock Creek** ~ Get yourself and your camping neighbors in the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Christmas in July. Lighted hayrack rides at 8 PM. Join us aboard our wagon as we treat you to a lighted ride through our campground. We will be able to view the decorated campsites. We will have site judging at 9 PM. Prizes will be awarded.

**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Vapor, Liquid, Ice Cream! ~ 7:30 PM ~ Walnut Grove** ~ Come to do some fun water experiments and make an individual serving of your own homemade ice cream!

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Clinton County Area EnviroKids ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Children's Discovery Center, Clinton.** Grades 3-5 (younger children if accompanied by an adult). Join the Enviro Safari the Children's Discovery Center. Come bag the big game with us as we track big ways to help the world around us. Join the adventure! One-time \$5 entry fee for EnviroKids. Sign-up with Judie Petersen 563-357-6932.

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Vapor, Liquid, Ice Cream! ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Come to do some fun water experiments and make an individual serving of your own homemade ice cream!

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Dinner ~ 4-6 PM ~ Rock Creek Camp Café** ~ We will be serving a Christmas dinner in our Camp café. Let us heat up our kitchen while you relax and enjoy your weekend. Adults \$9.95, Children \$6.95

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Caroling ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Let's get into the holiday spirit with some Christmas songs. We will have song books available at the camp store for you. Meet on the deck and join your fellow campers on a leisurely caroling stroll through the campground.



**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley** ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers and park visitors.

## August

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Creepy Crawlies ~ 7:30 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~** Bats, spiders and snakes O-MY! Join us as we discover the hidden truths of these often misunderstood animals!

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Creepy Crawlies ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Nature is filled with those creatures that just make your skin crawl! Join us as we discover the hidden truths of these often misunderstood animals!

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Movie Night ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Join us in the theater room of the Eco Center for a family friendly slightly spooky movie. Popcorn, candy, and drinks will be available in the camp store.

**8<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ ½ Price Slushies ~ 5-6 pm ~ Rock Creek Camp Café**

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ Iowa Snakes ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~** See, touch and learn about 10 or more species of Iowa snakes.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Clinton County Area EnviroKids ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Bickelhaupt Arboretum, Clinton ~** Grades 3-5 (younger children if accompanied by an adult). Discover the fascinating world of the Lepidopterans and why they matter to us. Learn about their life cycle; and touch, tag, and release Monarch butterflies. Enjoy butterfly crafts and treats at the Arboretum. Bring your camera. One-time \$5 entry fee for EnviroKids. Sign-up with Judie Petersen 563-357-6932.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Iowa Snakes ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** See, touch and learn about 10 or more species of Iowa snakes.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Camp Café Dinner ~ 4-7 pm ~ Rock Creek ~** Too tired to cook, let us make dinner for you. Dinner will be served in the Camp Café along the shores of the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi. Call to find out our dinner special at 563-259-1876.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Join us aboard a wagon for a leisurely ride around our park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~** Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

**10<sup>th</sup> ~ Menke Open House ~ Dusk ~ Monsignor Menke Observatory ~ Wapsi Center ~** Join Dr. Mitchell, Director of the Monsignor Menke Observatory for a tour of the night sky. Please call 563-333-6141 on the day of this event to find out if weather conditions will permit viewing.



**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of the Wapsi Center, Inc. Meeting ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center ~** Join us to learn about the latest news and happenings at the Wapsi River Center.

**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Come enjoy an evening of home-spun music beneath the waxing moon aboard the Blue Heron Eco Cruise Boat. The cruise is popular and free of charge so make your reservation early by calling 563-259-1876.

**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Massilon to Walnut Grove Float ~ 4:30 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~** We will gather at the boat ramp for registration starting at 4:15 so that we can depart for Massilon Park at 4:30 sharp. We will launch together and paddle the 4 miles of Wapsipinicon River to Walnut Grove Park stopping at beaches along the way. The Conservation Department will supply canoes on a first come first served basis. PFD's and paddles will be supplied. You must stay with the group and wear your PFD at all times. Call 563-847-7202 to reserve equipment.

**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Annual Rock Creek Catfish Classic ~ 7 AM-1 PM ~ Rock Creek ~**

The Clinton County Conservation Foundation is hosting this tournament to raise funds to help finish the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center displays at Rock Creek. Costs are \$50/boat and \$10 for the Big Fish Pot. Prize money is to be determined by the number of entries with a minimum 70 percent payout guaranteed to the top 3 boats. There are door prizes for all contestants. Check-in will begin at 6 AM and weigh-in at 1 PM sharp. Up to a limit of 10 channel cats, at a 12" minimum length, will be weighed per entry. Sign-up and rules available at [www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Park/Rock-Creek-Marina-Campground/Events](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Park/Rock-Creek-Marina-Campground/Events)



**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Sun Catchers and Nature Hike ~ 10 AM to Noon ~ Wapsi Center ~** Fun for the entire family! Come to the Wapsi Center to join Casey for a nature hike to learn about some of Iowa's natives. Sun catchers will be made from items we pick from the hike. Kids will truly enjoy being able to take home part of the Wapsi by creating a beautiful sun catcher. Registration is required, so please call ahead 563-328-3286.

**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Eco Tour & Kids Casting Contest ~ Noon ~ Rock Creek ~** Join this naturalist-guided tour of the Mississippi River Eco-tourism Center featuring the Lunkers of Iowa, our 8,000 gallon native aquarium and its inhabitants and our Nature Gallery. Following the tour your children can participate in a Backyard Bass Casting Contest. All participants will walk away with prizes.



**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Movie Night ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us in the theater room of the MRETC for a family friendly movie. Popcorn, candy and drinks will be available in camp store.

**17<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley** ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers and park visitors.

**22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> ~ Lower Wapsi River Clean-up Project ~ Sherman Park** ~ Here's some fun for a hot, summer weekend. Slip on a PFD and jump in one of our canoes (while supplies last) to aid in this annual volunteer clean-up. This is a family oriented event. Catered meals are available and free camping provided. Sherman Park now has a modern shower house to make things a bit more comfortable for participants. For more information check the web, [www.lwrcp.org](http://www.lwrcp.org)



**24<sup>th</sup> ~ Free Paddling ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek** ~ Get your family or friends together and come spend some quality time on the river. Our canoes & kayaks will be available free of charge to get you out on the water. Stop in the camp store and check out a canoe to use on the backwaters.

**24<sup>th</sup> ~ Camp Café Dinner ~ 4-7 pm~ Rock Creek** ~ Too tired to cook, let us make dinner for you. Dinner will be served in the Camp Café along the shores of the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi. Call to find out our dinner special at 563-259-1876.

**27<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center**

**29<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**30<sup>th</sup> ~ Archery & Slingshots ~ 7:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~** We will set up our equipment in the campground for folks to try out with supervision and instruction.

**31<sup>st</sup> ~ Early Bird Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

**31<sup>st</sup> ~ Archery & Slingshots ~ 1 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ We will set up our equipment in the Eco Tourism Center's indoor range for folks to try out with supervision and instruction.



**31<sup>st</sup> ~ Fish Boil ~ 4-7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~** Let us heat up our kitchen while you relax and enjoy your weekend. We will serve you a generous portion of fish, vegetables and all the fixings. Adults \$9.95, Child \$6.95.

## September Sneak-Peek

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ 1/2 price Canoes & Kayaks ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek** ~ Get your family or friends together and come spend some quality time on the river. Stop in the camp store and rent a canoe to use on the backwaters.

**1<sup>st</sup> ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Join us aboard a wagon for a leisurely ride around our park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Sunset Eco Cruises ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek**

**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> ~ Tri-State Custom Rodbuilders Workshop ~ Rock Creek** ~ There will be various instructors including Bill Batson, BD Ehler, Ron Walter, Mark Blabaum, Becky Loyd, Dr. Garry Land & more. Chuck and Debbie Brown from Decal Connection will attend too. The gathering will start at 10:00 am on Saturday and will begin at 9:00 am on Sunday. There will be lunch provided and there will be a lot to learn and share. For further details or to send an RSVP, please contact Dr. Garry Land at [f1188@excite.com](mailto:f1188@excite.com) or at 563-249-1213 in order to plan ahead for food. Workshop is free – goodwill donations accepted for lunch.

**14<sup>th</sup> ~ Youth Outdoor Skills Day ~ 9 AM –2:30 PM ~ Clinton Izaak Walton**

**League** ~ Looking for a way to open your child's eyes to a life of adventure in the great outdoors and gain experience with a variety of outdoor skills? We have just the thing! Clinton County kids ages, 11-17, will learn about safety and skills at various stations staffed by various Conservation Organizations such as *Pheasants Forever*, *Harvester Bass Club*, *Whitetails Unlimited*, *Wild Turkey Federation*, *Clinton Ike's* and *Clinton County Conservation*. All stations will involve hands-on activities designed to give kids practical experience while keeping safety at the forefront. Parents and younger siblings are encouraged to attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Each participant will be charged a non-refundable \$5 fee and receive a T-shirt. Call 563-847-7202 to sign-up.



**14<sup>th</sup> Clinton County Area EnviroKids ~ 10 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek** ~ Grades 3-5 (younger children if accompanied by an adult). Hop aboard the Blue Heron Pontoon Boat at Rock Creek for a cruise and activities at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. One-time \$5 entry fee for EnviroKids. Sign-up with Judie Petersen 563-357-6932.

## Coming Soon to the MRETC

### Lowland Forest & Turtle Display

Visit the Nature Gallery at the Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek and watch our progress! Midwest Exhibits will be installing the Nature Gallery's centerpiece during July.

## Flooding 2013

We have been struggling with water all season and at this time we are hopeful that water will be dropping and we are going forward under the assumption that we will be able to deliver on all these events. Feel free to call 563-847-7202 to check on things closer to your favorite event(s).



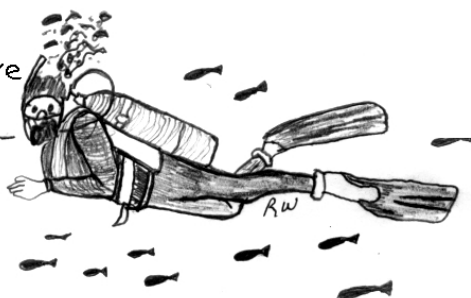
**Clinton County Conservation**  
**P.O. Box 68**  
**Grand Mound, Iowa 52751**  
**Phone: 563-847-7202**  
**Email: [conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov)**  
**[www.clintoncounty-ia.gov](http://www.clintoncounty-ia.gov)**  
**[www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)**

Address Service Requested

Pre-sorted STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
CLINTON, IA 52732  
Permit No. 164

### Rock Creek Marina & Campground Flood 2013

Now where  
did I park  
the lawn -  
mower



### CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION

#### BOARD

Gloria Friederichsen, Grand Mound, President  
Kim Rixen, Clinton, Vice President  
Jeff Beckwith, Clinton, Secretary/Treasurer  
Jim Haring, Clinton  
Judie Petersen, Goose Lake

#### STAFF

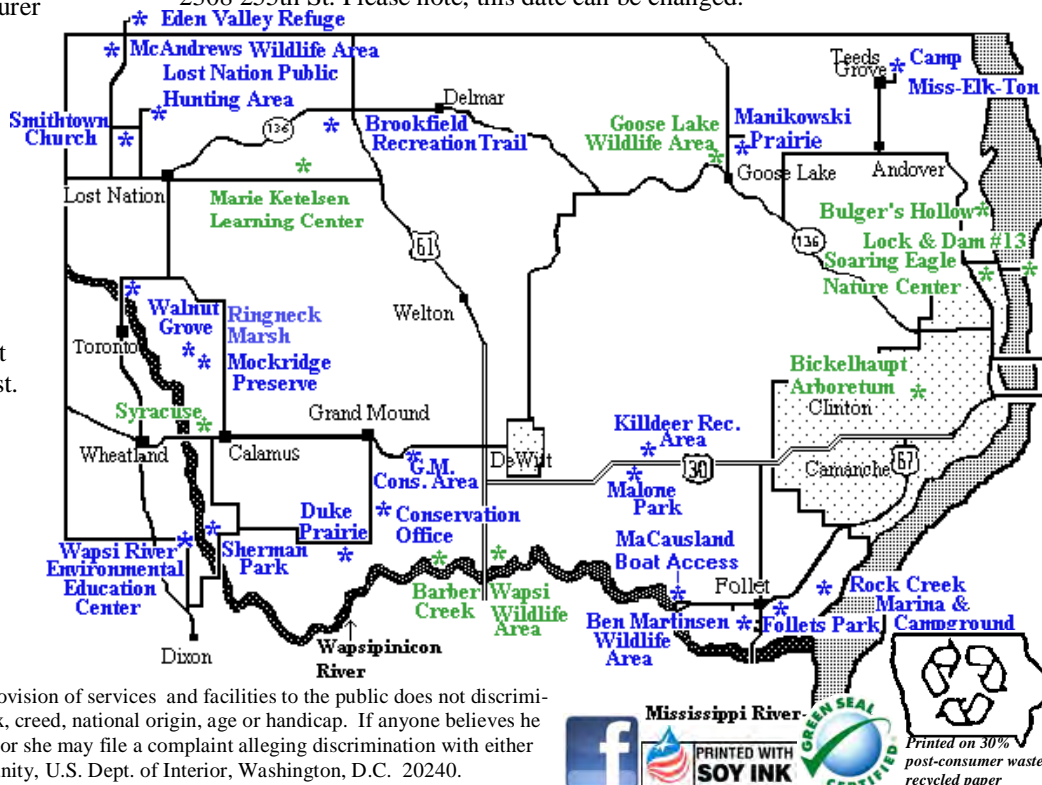
Walt Wickham, Executive Director  
Karen Brix, Administrative Assistant  
Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator  
Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretive Naturalist  
Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist  
Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist  
Mary Broadfoot, Intern Naturalist  
Chip Brown, Park Officer, West District  
Dave Schneden, Maintenance, West Dist.  
Brad Taylor, Park Officer, East District  
Ryan Waltz, Park Ranger, East District  
Darin Voss, Natural Resource Tech  
Robert Schaefer, Maintenance, Central

#### MAILING LIST

Clinton County addresses are free.  
Others are charged \$5 annually.  
"The Heron" is on our website or  
emailed, free of charge.

### BOARD MEETINGS

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board meets the second Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, this date can be changed.



The Clinton County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Clinton C.C.B. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

